

L.J. - Lunoco. Nov., Dec. 14, 1938

FARM BILL

to  
Congress today finished one of its most troublesome chores. (After months of bickering, the Senate passed the four hundred and forty million dollar Farm Bill.) It's now up to the President.

The opponents made a late and desperate fight against it. But they were hopelessly out-voted. The final roll call was fifty-three to thirty-one. (~~Among the thirty one against the bill were two Farmer-Labor senators, one Progressive, eleven Republicans, and seventeen Democrats.~~)

Senator Hiram Johnson of California declared: "This bill is the beginning of a festering sore of regimentation that will spread to all industries." Senator McNarry of Oregon <sup>added:</sup> ~~declared:~~ "it makes the farmer a vassal of the Secretary of Agriculture."

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Be that as it may, (this new crop control bill is virtually law, as it is understood that <sup>the President</sup> ~~Mr. Roosevelt~~ will certainly sign it.)

I was talking to Washington today and heard one description of this measure as the derndest piece of legislation

that has ever been put on the books. That criticism was not on any political ground. I was told that there isn't anybody really in Washington who understands it. Veteran correspondents, hardened to decades of queer laws, have the utmost difficulty in making head or tail of it. However, I did gather a few of its provisions.

(The Secretary of Agriculture allots the number of acres in the various states to be devoted to certain crops.)

Then the state allotments are broken down into county units.

And the county units into the individual farmer.

(Any farmer who diverts parts of his acreage, gets benefit payments from the Department of Agriculture, something like the old A.A.A. system. He also can obtain loans on his crops and insurance for his wheat.)

Farmers will not be allowed to sell more than their quotas of any crop. The quota is to be decided by a referendum of farmers. There are penalties for those who sell more than their quotas. There'll also be special taxes on all farmers who refuse to have anything to do with this program. Incidentally, a farmer will have to become ~~also~~ a bookkeeper under this law.

## SUPREME COURT

A new decision of the Supreme Court today astonishes many lawyers. Heretofore the practice has been that courts would sit in judgment on laws made not only by State Legislatures but by Congress. Under this new decision the Supreme Court takes a new and radical departure.

In a ruling written and read by ~~Repx~~ Liberal Justice Harlan F. Stone, the Supreme Court declares, "The Courts do not sit as Legislatures, either State or National. They cannot act as Congress does. And he continues, "When the action of a Legislature is within its power, it is not for the Courts to determine whether it is reasonable, wise or proper. That is up to the legislative body on which rests the duty and responsibility.



Late this evening an important announcement was made from the Treasury. A new fiscal policy. And as a first step thirty million dollars of sterilized gold has been released by the Treasury. Sterilized gold, ~~of course,~~ is that which is not being used as a credit base <sup>e</sup> for currency.

I talked to <sup>the Treasury Dept.</sup> ~~Secretary Morgenthau~~, over the telephone

<sup>and learned</sup> just now ~~He tells me,~~ that from now on the Treasury will ~~be~~ no longer sterilize the additional gold that comes in unless more than one hundred million dollars is received in any one quarter. In such a case only the amount in excess of one hundred million dollars will be sterilized. There is now one billion, two-hundred-and-fifty ~~two hundred and fifty~~ million dollars of sterilized gold <sup>on hand.</sup> ~~the country.~~

Secretary Morgenthau explained that this step was taken because he considers the country is now <sup>approaching</sup> ~~back to,~~ normal.

~~This new move will make money easy, and he said is definitely not a deflationary step.~~

For many years there has been complaint that the Federal Trade Commission had no teeth. A well meaning body, people said, but it had <sup>not</sup> the power to enforce its good intentions.

*Now* There will be amendments to the Federal Trade Act.

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The object; ~~will be~~ to give the Commission the power to forbid false advertising. These amendments, it is hoped, will protect not only manufacturers competing against each other but also the public. It will become a criminal offense to publish false advertising of any goods, drugs, devices or cosmetics that are injurious to the health of the people who use them. Anybody who violates an order of the Commission, will be punished by ~~five~~  
~~five~~ a fine of five thousand dollars.

Another amendment forbids the selling of injurious foods and drugs. Anybody who disobeys that will get not only a five thousand dollar fine but six months' imprisonment.

This ~~business~~ has been under discussion in Congress for many weary months. *TP* The House of Representatives today approved the conference report, which now has to go to the Senate for approval.

DEFENSE

Argument still rages around the government's defense program. There was another session of the Naval Affairs Committee of the House. One witness was a twenty year old youth, who told the Committee he wouldn't defend his country no matter what happened. And he said he represents a lot of other young men who will not bear arms in event of war. He described himself as Social Action Chairman of the National Council of Methodist Youth. He is also a student at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

The next witness was <sup>Congressman</sup> ~~Representative~~ Hamilton Fish, ~~of~~ ~~New York~~, who says he doesn't see why Japan shouldn't have as large a navy as Uncle Sam. He objects to the President's big navy program. "This super navy is going to police and quarantine the world, to join in a blockade of certain nations," *he said.*

The most vigorous speech today on the subject was made not before Congress but in New York. Rear Admiral Woodward told a gathering of army chaplains that unpreparedness is an invitation to war. And he said our one-sided disarmament for so many years has set Uncle Sam behind in world power by almost a generation. *He declared* ~~He said~~ there's wrong on both sides of the



<sup>that</sup>  
argument: ~~the~~ pacifists display the valor of ignorance, the  
extreme militarists are swashbucklers who insist that might makes  
right.

There was an unexpected ally on the side of preparedness  
advocates. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, for many years a member of  
several pacifist organizations, told reporters "it is undoubtedly  
necessary for us to have better equipment for self-defense."

BROADCASTERS

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The National Association of Broadcasters held a convention in Washington today. It was only natural that it should receive a message from President Roosevelt, himself ~~one~~ *one of the busiest* ~~of the foremost~~ <sup>^</sup> broadcasters in the world. Among other things he said:- "I have the high hope that the industry ~~of the Federal~~ under the guidance of the Federal Communications Commission will prove itself to be worthy of the great public trust reposed in it."

After hearing Mr. Roosevelt's message, the assembled broadcasters saw a most interesting sight: ~~It was~~ a demonstration of a new simplified system for transmitting facsimiles by radio. It can flash either pictures, news bulletins, or any other printed text into anybody's home.

This new facsimile system is the result of ten years' work by Charles J. Young, research engineer at the R.C.A. Victor Laboratories at Camden, New Jersey. The Federal Communications Commission has issued licenses to several broadcasters to experiment on this in their homes. And I learned just now that



seven large stations, most of them owned by newspapers, have ordered this new facsimile equipment. They expect to start flashing programs by this means late in the spring and you'll ~~probably~~ hear ~~a good deal~~ more about it later.

## EUROPE

Curious doings are still afoot in Europe. The center of interest shifted today to Vienna. The facts indicate what nobody thought likely:- a reconciliation between the government of Chancellor von Schuschnigg and the Austrian Nazis. All this comes smack on top of Schuschnigg's return from his visit to Hitler in Bavaria. The first sequel was that he called a prominent member of the Austrian Nazis in conference. And tonight the rumor is that this Nazi leader is to become a member of the Schuschnigg cabinet.

A Viennese newspaper, a Nazi sympathizer, interprets all this as a shift in the Austrian attitude. Henceforth, the face of Vienna is to be turned not towards Rome as hitherto, but towards Berlin. That sounds like a curious interpretation in view of the fact of the Rome-Berlin Axis. But it is assumed that Schuschnigg made this concession to Hitler in return for a guarantee from the German Fuehrer that Austria's independence will be respected. In general, this departure has been accepted as a move in the direction of European peace. Particularly so, because Europe

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expects at any moment the announcement of a new understanding

between ~~John Bull~~ <sup>Britain</sup> and the Berlin-Rome axis. It is even rumored

that the Fuehrer's speech to the Reichstag on Sunday will proclaim

the restoration of some of the former German colonies seized by

England.



RUSSIA FOLLOW EUROPE

From another part of Europe comes a word that doesn't spell peace. ( Dictator Stalin, the man of steel and silence, has broken that silence the first time in a couple of years. "War," says the Soviet Dictator, " is inevitable with the bourgeois countries." )

He made this statement in a letter to ~~the~~ PRAVDA, the organ of the Communist Party. ~~It was~~ (an unmistakeable ringing call for the Russians to be ready for war. "We must have a large increase in the strength of our Red army, our Red fleet and airforce," he said. He puts the blame, of course, on the bourgeois countries. They are the villians in the piece; it will be their fault when and as the war breaks out.

~~Incidentally, it's an open secret that the higher officials in Washington, including even some of the highest, firmly expect that <sup>all this</sup> the big blow-off is due to happen not later than Nineteen Thirty Nine or Forty.~~

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A good deal of Stalin's letter consisted of replies to charges made by Trotsky, ~~Zinoviev~~ and ~~Kamanev~~ and others. "They," says Dictator Stalin, "later became spies and agents of

Fascism." Another thing Stalin virtually says is, "the only true Socialism today is my Socialism." And he uses quotations from Marx and Lenin to back himself up.

~~One observer points out that if anybody had said that in Russia he would be shot for it as a Trotskyite. In many respects this statement is baffling and bewildering. But there's no mistaking the rattling of the sabre.~~

And there's one significant paragraph in that letter. The Soviet Union has not abandoned the doctrine of world revolution. On the contrary, it calls for the working classes of all nations to cooperate. <sup>Stalin</sup> ~~He~~ also ~~said:~~ "We must keep ~~that~~ all the people in a state of mobilization, in readiness for an attack so that no accident and no tricks from external enemies can catch us unawares. Furthermore," he declared, "The victory of Socialism will not be final until external contradictions are overcome." In other words, you might say, until the Soviet brand of Socialism becomes universal.

That sounds like Trotsky speaking with his theory of world revolution.

LATVIA

A new authoritarian state - Latvia.

For nearly four years there had been virtually a state of siege in that little one-time republic on the shore of the Baltic. It was established as a republic by the Treaty of Versailles. May Fifteenth, Nineteen Thirty-Four, its President, Karlis Ulmanis, accomplished a coup d'etat, proclaimed the suspension of democratic safeguards. ~~Of course there was considerable opposition, hence the state of siege. The government did not interfere with the normal life of the citizens. But all political opposition was set down upon heavily.~~

Tomorrow a number of new laws will come into force. ~~They will~~ enable <sup>ing</sup> the Minister of the Interior to throw into prison "any person whose activities have been prejudicial to the state or to the national economy." Also, the government is given absolute censorship over the newspapers. And it may disband any association that it doesn't like.



McINTYRE

The late Odd McIntyre exercised one privilege that no other newspaper man in America had. <sup>He typed</sup> ~~He wrote~~ his copy in single space. Any other writer doing that in a newspaper office, would be shot four times, once by the copy desk, once by the copy cutter in the composing room, once by the linotype<sup>r</sup><sub>1</sub> who had to set up his copy, and once by the proof-reader. The reason, of course, is that single spaced copy is difficult to read, difficult to edit, most difficult to put in type.

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But a man with so many millions of readers rated his little privileges. It is undoubtedly true that Odd McIntyre was read by more people than any other columnist except perhaps the late Arthur Brisbane. His column was sold to <sup>five</sup> ~~three~~ hundred and eighty newspapers, with a combined circulation of more than fifteen million people. ~~The editors of FORTUNE made a survey and from it deduced the estimate that one-quarter of those fifteen million used to read Odd's column. Other people declare that his public was much larger, that it must have been at least seven million people. Anyway, it was huge.~~

His illness was short; he was seized with a heart attack Saturday night, and, having an aversion to doctors, refused medical aid. He died this morning. And so ends the story of the small town boy who made good in the city.

Odd McIntyre was always referring to the numerous small town boys who made good. And never a week passed without his talking about his own home town., Gallipolis, Ohio -- how he would like to return there. However, it was noticeable that he never did. return until now, to be buried there -- in a plot looking down on the park where he courted his one and only girl. I stood there a couple of years ago. He picked the spot where his remains are to be placed -- high on a bluff overlooking the wide sweep of the Ohio River.

FLOOD

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~~Back there~~ In Michigan, they've been having the worst flood in twenty-five years. Of course it's only a circumstance compared to that watery cataclysm along the Ohio ~~River~~ last January. Still, it's serious enough, hundreds of homeless families, flooded houses, highways impassible, and all the other grave circumstances of

inundation. The worst appears to be over throughout most of the

state. But there's a grave condition at Grand Rapids, ~~where they~~ <sup>the world's</sup>

<sup>capitol.</sup> ~~make the furniture,~~ The Grand River today was ~~just~~ only five feet

below flood stage, ~~with~~ <sup>along about</sup> the crest ~~isn't expected until,~~ Thursday.

~~However, the danger was halted for the time being by cold weather.~~

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~~and~~ eight hundred workers are busy piling up sandbags along the waterfront.



MRS. ROOSEVELT

There was astonishment in the White House today. It wasn't about battleships, it wasn't about Hitler, Mussolini or anything in Europe. The surprise was caused by the First Lady of the Land. For the first time in her ~~life~~, she appeared with make-up on her lips.

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As Mrs. Roosevelt has always been one of the exceedingly few ladies in the whole land who never used a lipstick, this is indeed news. She explained that her daughter Anna, Mrs. *John* Boettiger, of Seattle, ~~Washington~~, had persuaded her. Her chief objection to it was that it took her quite a time to put it on. But, she said, her daughter told her that with practice and experience she ~~soon~~ learn.

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In case you're interested - ~~and who is not~~ Mrs. Roosevelt's lipstick is of a light red shade.